

Meadville Lombard Theological School Statement of Educational Effectiveness

Meadville Lombard Theological School educates students in the Unitarian Universalist tradition to serve as religious leaders in congregations and communities. The learning community strives to create an academic and formation experience that prepares our students to lead in the multicultural, pluralistic society and the global realities of the 21st century.

Through our low-residency educational platform, we offer the following degree programs:

Master of Divinity: a 3-year program that educates future ministers in the Unitarian Universalist tradition, emphasizing “learning by doing”. Concentrations available in Chaplaincy and Faith Formation Pedagogy.

Master of Arts (Religion): an 18-month degree program offering an in-depth, interdisciplinary study of religion to prepare for further academic study or to strengthen ongoing work in religious leadership.

Doctor of Ministry: a 3-year advanced professional degree that deepens students’ religious leadership in traditional and non-traditional ministry settings, including congregational ministry, social justice and entrepreneurial ministries, and teaching roles. **The Doctor of Ministry program relaunched in Fall 2023 and saw its first graduating class in May 2026.**

Student Satisfaction:

Effectiveness of program in developing areas of personal growth:	MLTS MDiv	MLTS Total	ATS Overall MDiv	ATS Overall Total
Empathy for the poor and oppressed	4.9	4.6	4.2	4.2
Concern about social justice	5.0	4.8	4.1	4.0
Enthusiasm for learning	4.6	4.8	4.4	4.5
Insight into troubles of others	4.8	4.8	4.2	4.3
Respect for other religious traditions	4.5	4.6	4.2	4.2
Respect for my own religious tradition	4.5	4.7	4.5	4.5
Ability to live my faith in daily life	4.4	4.6	4.3	4.4
Clarity of vocational goals	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2
Self-confidence	4.5	4.4	4.2	4.3
Self-knowledge	4.8	4.8	4.3	4.4
Strength of spiritual life	4.5	4.6	4.2	4.3

1- Not at all effective 2 – Not very effective 3 – Somewhat effective 4 – Effective 5 – Very effective

MLTS MDiv students rated the program higher in effectiveness than the average of MDiv students from responding ATS schools in 9 out of 11 relevant areas.

Effectiveness of program in facilitating skills:	MLTS MDiv	MLTS Total	ATS Overall MDiv	ATS Overall Total
Ability to preach well	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.1
Knowledge of church polity/canon law	3.8	3.5	4.0	3.9
Ability to teach well	4.1	4.3	4.1	4.2
Knowledge of church doctrine and history	4.1	4.1	4.4	4.3
Ability to lead others	4.8	4.7	4.2	4.2
Ability to conduct worship/liturgy	4.6	4.5	4.1	4.0
Ability to interact effectively with those of religious traditions other than my own	4.5	4.6	4.1	4.1
Ability to work effectively within my own religious tradition	4.8	4.6	4.4	4.4
Ability to interact effectively with those from cultural and racial/ethnic contexts other than my own	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.3
Awareness and appreciation of the globalized context in which ministry is practiced	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.3
Ability to relate social issues to faith	4.8	4.8	4.4	4.4
Ability in pastoral counseling	4.5	4.3	4.1	4.1
Ability to administer a parish	4.3	4.1	3.8	3.9
Ability to think theologically	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.6
Ability to integrate insights from science into theology and ministry	4.5	4.7	3.9	4.0
Ability to integrate ecological concerns into theology and ministry	4.6	4.8	3.8	3.9

1 - Not at all effective 2 - Not very effective 3 - Somewhat effective 4 - Effective 5 - Very effective

MLTS MDiv students rated the program higher in effectiveness than the average of MDiv students from responding ATS schools in 11 out of 16 relevant areas.

Data from 2025-26 ATS Graduating Student Questionnaire.

Placement Data

2023 Graduates	MDiv
Vocational Placement	6 (55%)
Non-vocational Placement	1 (9%)
Further Study	0
Seeking Placement	2 (18%)
Other	1 (9%)
Unknown	1 (9%)
Total	11

As reported in the Fall 2023 ATS Annual Report (No MAR students graduated in May 2023).

2024 Graduates	MDiv	MAR
Vocational Placement	9 (75%)	2 (67%)
Non-vocational Placement	0	0
Further Study	0	1 (33%)
Seeking Placement	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	3 (25%)	0
Total	12	3

As reported in the Fall 2024 ATS Annual Report.

2025 Graduates	MDiv	MAR
Vocational Placement	6 (40%)	0
Non-vocational Placement	1 (7%)	0
Further Study	2 (13%)	0
Seeking Placement	4 (27%)	0
Other	0	1 (100%)
Unknown	2 (13%)	0
Total	15	1

As reported in the Fall 2025 ATS Annual Report.

Graduation and Persistence Rates

	2024	2025	2026
MDiv Graduation Rate	58% (11 out of 19)	84% (16 out of 19)	64% (14 out of 22)
MAR Graduation Rate	33% (1 out of 3)	N/A (no MAR students matriculated in 2021)	100% (1 out of 1)
MDiv Persistence Rate	79% (15 out of 19)	95% (18 out of 19)	64% (14 out of 22)
MAR Persistence Rate	33% (1 out of 3)	N/A	100% (1 out of 1)

As reported in the 2024-2026 ATS Annual Reports. Graduation rate includes those who graduated with the matriculated degree. Persistence rate includes students who graduated with the matriculated degree, who graduated with another degree, and who are still enrolled in a degree at Meadville Lombard Theological School.

Time to Completion, May 2024 Graduates

	MDiv	MAR
<2 years	0	3 (100%)
2 to <3 years	3 (25%)	0
3 to <4 years	3 (25%)	0
4 to <5 years	4 (33%)	0
5 to <6 years	2 (17%)	0
6+ years	0	0
Total	12	3

As reported in the Fall 2024 ATS Annual Report.

Time to Completion, May 2025 Graduates

	MDiv	MAR
<2 years	0	0
2 to <3 years	2 (13%)	0
3 to <4 years	3 (20%)	1 (100%)
4 to <5 years	3 (20%)	0
5 to <6 years	3 (20%)	0
6+ years	4 (27%)	0
Total	15	1

As reported in the Fall 2025 ATS Annual Report.

Time to Completion, May 2026 Graduates

	MDiv	MAR
<2 years	0	1 (100%)
2 to <3 years	2 (20%)	0
3 to <4 years	3 (30%)	0
4 to <5 years	3 (30%)	0
5 to <6 years	2 (20%)	0
6+ years	0	0
Total	10	1

As reported in the Fall 2026 ATS Annual Report.

MDiv Learning Outcome Achievement

Evaluation Scale:

5- Exceeds proficiency

4- Proficient

3- Basic

4- Developing

5- Inadequate

Benchmarks:

For each outcome:

- 90% of students have at least a 3 when evaluated at cumulative assessment points
- 80% of students have at least a 3.5 when evaluated at cumulative assessment points

For outcomes assessed as part of the Internship (final evaluation at the conclusion of the two-year internship):

- 90% of students have at least a 3.5 in 67% of outcomes – **met**, 100% of students have at least 3.5 in 100% of outcomes
- 60% of students have at least a 3.5 in 100% of outcomes - **met**, 100% of students have at least 3.5 in 100% of outcomes
- 50% of students have at least a 4 in 67% of outcomes - **met**, 83% of students have at least a 4 in 100% of outcomes

Liberal Religious Tradition - Critical and deep understanding of the histories of liberal religion, including Christian history and theology, as part of the larger human religious story.

Assessment Point	History of Global Christianity		Constructive Theology	
	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25
Percentage of students with an average of at least 3.5	83%	92%	78%	67%
Percentage of students with an average of at least 3	83%	100%	78%	100%

Excellence in ministerial practices: The ability to demonstrate a significant understanding of, and progress in, the basic arts and skills of ministry. This includes leadership and administrative skills, worship leadership, religious education, preaching, pastoral care, and prophetic ministry in the larger community.

Assessment Point	Internship 2023-24	Leadership Studies 2023-24
Percentage of students with an average of at least 3.5	100%	100%
Percentage of students with an average of at least 3	100%	100%

Critical Thinking: The ability and inclination to engage ideas, situations, texts, and contexts and to develop arguments with the lens of critical thinking, interpretation, and reflection.

Assessment Point	Constructive Theology 2023-24
Percentage of students with an average of at least 3.5	80%
Percentage of students with an average of at least 3	80%

Moral Grounding: A deep, moral engagement with persons and the world, celebrating its rich diversity, and confronting its problems of oppression, injustice, poverty, and environmental degradation.

Assessment Point	Internship			Introduction to Ethics	
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25
Percentage of students with an average of at least 3.5	92%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Percentage of students with an average of at least 3	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Spiritual and Personal readiness: Personal self-awareness, resilience, humor, good judgment, spiritual depth, ethical and moral integrity, a well-tested seriousness of intent, and the ability to balance personal needs with the needs of ministry.

Assessment Point	Internship 2023-24	Leadership Studies 2023-24
Percentage of students with an average of at least 3.5	92%	100%
Percentage of students with an average of at least 3	100%	100%

Interfaith and Intercultural Orientation: Ability to connect across religious and cultural difference and a broad understanding of global religions and faith traditions.

Assessment Point	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	3 Year Total (2023-24-2025-26)
Percentage of students with an average of at least 3.5	67%	94%	100%	91%
Percentage of students with an average of at least 3	83%	100%	100%	97%

MAR Learning Outcome Achievement

Evaluation Scale:

5- Exceeds proficiency

4- Proficient

3- Basic

4- Developing

5- Inadequate

Benchmarks:

- 70% of students have at least a 3.75 in relevant outcomes
- 80% of students have at least a 3.25
- 90% of students have at least a 3

Outcome 1: Develop general knowledge and understanding in the areas of liberal religious theology and ethics.

Assessment Point	Introduction to Ethics - 2024-25	Constructive Theology -2024-25
Percentage of students with an average of at least 3.75	100%	50%
Percentage of students with an average of at least 3.25	100%	100%
Percentage of students with an average of at least 3	100%	100%

Outcome 2: Develop general knowledge and understanding of global religious history.

Assessment Point	Global Religions – 2023-24 (2 students)	Global Religions – 2024-25 & 2025-26 (2 students total)
Percentage of students with an average of at least 3.75	100%	100%
Percentage of students with an average of at least 3.25	100%	100%
Percentage of students with an average of at least 3	100%	100%

Outcome 3: Develop deeper knowledge and understanding in a specific area or areas of theology and ethics, or religious education.

Assessment Point	Thesis – 2023-24
Percentage of students with an average of at least 3.75	67%
Percentage of students with an average of at least 3.25	100%
Percentage of students with an average of at least 3	100%

Outcome 4: Apply knowledge and understanding in theology, ethics, and/or religious education through **either** academic research, critical reflection, and scholarly writing or a practical project, reflection, and analysis

Assessment Point	Thesis – 2023-24
Percentage of students with an average of at least 3.75	67%
Percentage of students with an average of at least 3.25	100%
Percentage of students with an average of at least 3	100%

DMin Student Learning Assessment – 2025-26

First Graduating Cohort

Assessment Benchmark: At least 70% of students demonstrate proficiency; at least 90% of students demonstrate proficiency or approaching proficiency; 100% of students demonstrate at least basic competence.

Outcome 1: Students generate original research that identifies a challenge in the practice of ministry, develops a coherent and responsive theology of ministry, and critically reflects on the field of faith leadership.

Percentage of students demonstrating proficiency	100%
Percentage of students demonstrating proficiency or approaching proficiency	100%
Percentage of students demonstrating at least basic competence	100%

Outcome 2: Students will deploy a variety of theological methods and leadership praxes in engagement with diverse faith settings.

Percentage of students demonstrating proficiency	100%
Percentage of students demonstrating proficiency or approaching proficiency	100%
Percentage of students demonstrating at least basic competence	100%

Outcome 3: Students will grow their practice of ministry through contextual analysis of diverse faith settings and community-engaged research and reflection.

Percentage of students demonstrating proficiency	67%
Percentage of students demonstrating proficiency or approaching proficiency	100%
Percentage of students demonstrating at least basic competence	100%

Outcome 4: Students will develop the skills to support their continued personal, vocational, and spiritual growth.

Percentage of students demonstrating proficiency	67%
Percentage of students demonstrating proficiency or approaching proficiency	100%
Percentage of students demonstrating at least basic competence	100%